GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:446
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
New Crop Varieties
Kalvakuntla Smt. Kavitha

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote the interests of the tribal and hill farmers of the Western Himalayas and Islands of Andaman and Nicobar which have unique ecosystems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the research institutes in the country have developed new crop varieties and released them for commercial cultivation in the said regions during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government has taken adequate steps to promote the interests of the tribal and hill farmers of the Western-Himalayas and Island of Andaman and Nicobar.

Major schemes/missions being implemented elsewhere in India, viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Sub-mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE), Mission for Integrated for Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) are also being implemented in the hilly regions of the Western-Himalayas.

In Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, a Central Scheme, namely, High Value Agriculture (HVA) is being implemented. Other programmes in the UT include development programmes of Coconut Development Board, National Horticulture Board, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (National Horticulture Mission).

Contdâ€¦2/-

Under these schemes, various activities are undertaken for promotion of Horticulture and Agriculture Crops. The various components of the schemes are area expansion of horticulture/agriculture crops, protected cultivation, adoption of organic farming, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, creation of water resources, human resource development, setting up of new tissue culture unit and centre for excellence for Horticulture.

In A&N Island, the islands like Smith Island, Long Island, Havelock Island are being covered by crops like paddy, red oil palm, arecanut, coconut, spices, cashew, and aromatic plants.

(c) & (d): National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) has been actively involved in crop improvement programme and new crop varieties are being developed constantly. Concerted efforts have led to development of 36 high yielding crop verities/hybrids for the tribal and hill farmers of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh during the last two years (2014-15). They consist of cereals (21), oil seeds (5), pulses (8) and forage crops(2).

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